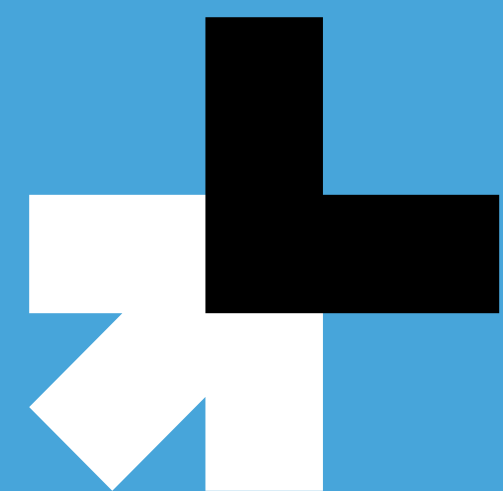


**Proven  
Solution**

Ending Gender-Based Violence



**HeForShe**

# Japan

## Promoting women's empowerment and eliminating sexual violence in conflict

## Global Context

**Although the situation of women in developing countries has dramatically changed over the last two decades, conflict-related sexual violence has not yet ceased, due to emerging violent extremism of increasing complexity, as well as endless conflicts.**

Japan has contributed to international society in terms of promoting women's empowerment and preventing sexual violence in conflict. As women's empowerment is one of the priorities of the Government of Japan, Japan has decided to enhance support for the international community in light of these reasons.

2020 marked the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, and the 10th anniversary of the appointment of the Special Representative

of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC), Japan strongly believes that we should accelerate gender equality and empowerment of women and thus it is crucial to promote empowerment of women and ending sexual violence in conflict.

"When conflicts arise, women are exposed to major risks. Vulnerable women are most likely to be ignored. And, there are cases where heart-rending cries from women are regarded as low-priority simply because they came from a woman. Violence toward women, especially the fear of sexual violence in conflict, is beyond description

and it would be absolutely unacceptable for the international community to avert its eyes from this reality. By including the perspective of women in times of conflict, we will tremendously improve the responses provided by the international community."

"In the current world, we can emphasize on confrontational matters, but the most needed is women's flexible leadership and an attitude to seek for common grounds. The diversity with not only men but also such women will solve many social issues and will be the driver for the strong economic growth."

**H.E. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan**



**...When many women raise their voices and each and every one of us takes action, the world can change without doubt.**

**H.E. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan**

## Key Stages of Implementation

# 1

### Step 1 Ensure a proactive leadership

The Government of Japan proactively made efforts under the strong leadership of former Prime Minister Abe to promote women's empowerment and ending sexual violence in conflict and is still contributing to the field. In September 2014, at the UN General Assembly, Prime Minister Abe clearly expressed Japan's intention to enhance cooperation with the international community and offer its assistance to developing countries for women's empowerment and gender-equality.

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In addition, Japan took leadership in the international community in the field, for instance by chairing the 2016 G7 Ise-Shima Summit where the Global Leaders' Declaration was adopted to create a society where all women and girls are empowered. Japan also endorsed the G7 Guiding Principles for Building the Capacity of Women and Girls as a common guiding principle for future actions.

### Step 2 Develop Strategic Plans

In May 2016, Prime Minister Abe announced the Development Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, formulated as one of the new thematic policies under the Development Cooperation Charter. It has three priority areas: promoting women's and girls' rights, improving an enabling environment for women and girls to reach their full potentials and advancing women's leadership in politics, economy and other public fields.

In addition, Japan formulated a national action plan in 2015 to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and other relevant resolutions on women, peace, and security (WPS) and the revised version was formulated in March 2019. In accordance with the national action plan, Japan provides bilateral development assistance through JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) and financial contributions to international organizations including UN-Women and the Office of the SRSG-SVC.

# 2

# 3

### Step 3 Ensure appropriate budgeting and finance

Japan has provided more than \$3bn in Official Development Assistance for women's empowerment from 2013 to 2015. And as part of the G7, Japan committed to provide support for quality education and human resources development for girls and women in developing countries from 2016 to 2018. At the G20 Hamburg Summit in 2017, Japan endorsed \$50m for the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi), which supports women in developing countries for a five-year period from 2018. We have provided financial contributions of about \$114m for UN Women from 2015 to 2019, especially as a Champion of LEAP (Women's Leadership, Empowerment, Access & Protection in Crisis Response), one of UN Women's 12 Flagship Programming Initiatives, which aims to provide support for and empower displaced women and girls and their host communities in the Middle East and Africa. In order to prevent sexual violence in conflict,

Japan has provided about \$11m for the Office of the SRSG-SVC from 2014 to 2019, which is the second largest donor amount. Japan has decided to contribute €2m to the Global Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence initiated by 2018 Nobel Peace Prize laureates Ms. Nadia Murad and Dr. Denis Mukwege to provide support for survivors of conflict related sexual violence who are suffering today.

**Japan has provided more than \$3bn in Official Development Assistance for women's empowerment from 2013 to 2015.**



## Step 4 Continuous Monitoring

At the G7 Ise-Shima Summit of May 2016, Prime Minister Abe announced Japan's plan to train around 5,000 female administrative officers and assist education for approximately 50,000 female students in developing countries over the period 2016-18, based on the Development Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. Japan has fully implemented this commitment and provided training for 11,345 female administrative officers and benefited 61,173 girls by improving their educational environment over those three years.

In order to promote the SDGs, Japan established the SDGs Promotion Headquarters in 2016, headed by the Prime Minister and consisting of all Ministers as members with women's empowerment as one of its key priorities.

As efforts for ending sexual violence in conflict, with a goal to make the 21st century a world without human rights violations against women, Japan places importance on

providing support for the Office of the SRSG-SVC and Team of Experts (TOE). For example, the DRC is one of the priority countries of Japan and the TOE. The TOE set up seven specialized units on sexual violence. Their activities provide training, mentoring, infrastructure and technical support to judicial investigations and mobile courts, and reflect qualitative and quantitative improvements in the judicial response to sexual violence. From 1 January to 31 October 2017, 1,726 sexual and gender-based violence cases were registered by these units, which have so far resulted in 643 judgments. We believe that bringing justice and the rule of law conveys a message that perpetrators will be held accountable, which leads to the prevention of sexual violence and the stability of the area.

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## Step 5 External Communications

Japan has hosted the World Assembly for Women (WAW!) since 2014. It is a place for discussions on various matters concerning women with leading figures from Japan and abroad who are active pioneers in politics, economics and social fields.

In 2019, the Government of Japan hosted the G20 Osaka Summit where Japan led the discussion on women's issues, resulting in the Leaders' Declaration referencing women's labor participation promotion, enhancing support for girls and women's education in STEM fields, and engagement with women business leaders and entrepreneurs. Moreover, Japan held the Leaders' Special Event on Women's Empowerment where G20 leaders and presidents of international organizations reaffirmed the G20's commitment on women's empowerment.

## Resources

Please find our activities and other information from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website:

[https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/pc/page23e\\_000181.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/pc/page23e_000181.html)

<https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/index.html>

<https://www.japan.go.jp/diversity/women/>

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